

linkage of all of the nucleic acid components in a predetermined order, wherein the functionality provided by at least one of said two nucleic acid components is selected from the group consisting of: an origin of replication, a selectable marker and a transcriptional regulatory sequence; and

(b) incubating the nucleic acid components under conditions which allow for specific annealing and linkage of the components to thereby produce the nucleic acid multicomponent construct.

#### REMARKS

Applicants have filed a request for a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) in the instant application. Applicants respectfully request entry of the above preliminary amendment to the claims prior to the issue of a first Office Action on the merits. Support for the preliminary amendment can be found throughout the application as filed, see, for example, page 8, line 31 to page 9, line 3. The preliminary amendment does not enter new matter.

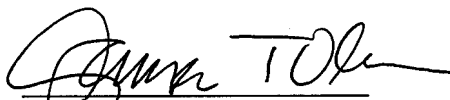
#### CONCLUSION

If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this response not accounted for please charge the fees to our **Deposit Account No. 06-1448**. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,  
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